

**Robert Dinwiddie to George Washington, April 29, 1756,
Letters to Washington and Accompanying Papers.
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FROM GOVERNOR DINWIDDIE.

WILLIAMSBURG April 29th.. 1756

SIR

Your Letter of the 24th: was delivered me by Capt. Peachy, which Letter with his Information gives me great Pain & Uneasiness for the back Settlements, & your present distress'd Situation,¹ I have & continue to do every Thing in my Power for Your relief.

The Militia of ten Counties are ordered to march directly for Winchester, Small Arms, Powder, Shott &c. have been sent from this to Fredricksburg two Days ago, as the Winds have been tolerably fair I think they will be at Fredricksburg To-morrow. Commissary Walker is sent up to forward the Ammunition to You, to provide Provisions & any other necessary Services; & I hope soon after the arrival of the Militia You will be able to open the Communication with Fort Cumberland—Mr. Walker has My Orders to send for the Irish Beef at Alexandria, & I hope we have Men sufficient to guard the Provisions at Conegochege.

The Cherokees left this on Monday for Augusta Court House, & I send an Express to Major Lewis to hasten them to Winchester. As to an Attempt against the Towns of the Enemy it must be suspended a little till we secure our Frontiers.

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As to a Supply for the Militia, if the Comissary should be disappointed in his purchase, You must order any Provisions You have for their Support, without any regard to what they were provided for.

I dread the Consequence, if You have not Men immediately to Your Assistance, I have therefore given positive & strong Orders to the Commanding Officers of each County to march their Militia immediately to Winchester.

I am surpriz'd at the Information You have of the Cabales of the People in the Neighbourhood of Winchester in forming themselves in Parties to capitulate with the Enemy, if You can make a Discovery thereof when the Militia reaches You, You are to make Prisoners of them all, that they may be tried for High Treason & punish'd according to Law, for I cou'd not think we had such Wretches among us, & if there is any Foundation for the Report endeavour to detect them, to be made Examples of to deter others.²

I have carefully perused the Copy of Your Council of War & the Letters You have enclos'd, I am sincerely concern'd & heartily griev'd for Your present Situation & be assured every Thing I can shall be done for Your relief & Assistance. I recommend You to the Protection of Heaven with sincere Prayers for Your Safety, & those poor People that are so much exposed to the Barbarities of a cruel & inhuman Enemy—I am Sincerely

Sir Your most hble Servant ROBT. DINWIDDIE My kind Service to Govr. Innes —

1 "Three families were murdered the night before last, at the distance of less than twelve miles from this place; and every day we have accounts of such cruelties and barbarities as are shocking to human nature. It is not possible to conceive the situation and danger of this miserable country. Such numbers of French and Indians are all around, that no road is safe; and here we know not the hour when we may be attacked."—Washington to Dinwiddie, April 24, 1756.

2 "I have been just now told, that numbers about the neighbourhood hold councils and cabals for very dishonorable purposes, and unworthy the thoughts of a British subject. Despairing of assistance and protection from below [as they foolishly conjecture] they talk of capitulating and agreeing upon terms with the French and Indians, rather than lose their lives and fortunes through obstinacy."—Washington to Dinwiddie, April 24, 1756.